

Remarks:

Claims 32 and 35 have been amended. Claims 1-31 and 39-59 were previously canceled. Claims 33, 34, and 38 have been canceled by this amendment. Thus, claims 32 and 35-37 are pending.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for an alleged lack of a written description and for an alleged lack of an enabling disclosure for the claimed invention.

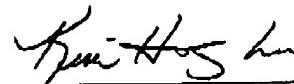
Claims 32-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Johnson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,090,778). Specifically, Johnson is cited as teaching a method of preparing antibodies to neurturin. In view of the amendment to claim 32, it is believed that this rejection is moot. Specifically, Johnson does not teach monoclonal antibodies to persephin, as depicted in SEQ ID NO:221. Thus, Johnson cannot anticipate the claimed antibodies. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Conclusion:

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that a personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment/Response is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Kimberly H. Lu, Reg. #51,973
Thompson Coburn LLP
One US Bank Plaza
St. Louis, Missouri 63101
Telephone: 314-552-6000
Fax: 314-552-7000